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Agenda item 173

Financing of the United Nations Transitional Administration in East Timor

Report of the Fifth Committee

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I. Introduction

1. At its 70th plenary meeting, on 6 December 1999, the General Assembly, on the proposal of the Secretary-General, decided to include in the agenda of its fifty-fourth session the item entitled "Financing of the United Nations Transitional Administration in East Timor" and to allocate it to the Fifth Committee.

2. The Fifth Committee considered the item at its 47th and 49th meetings, on 15 and 21 December 1999. Statements and observations made in the course of the Committee's consideration of the item are reflected in the relevant summary records (A/C.5/54/SR.47 and 49).

3. For its consideration of the item, the Committee had before it the report of the Secretary-General on the financing of the United Nations Transitional Administration in East Timor (A/54/236/Add.1) and the related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (A/54/653).

II. Consideration of draft resolution A/C.5/54/L.34

4. At the 49th meeting, on 21 December 1999, the representative of Egypt, Vice-Chairman of the Committee and coordinator of the informal consultations on item 173, introduced a draft resolution entitled "Financing of the United Nations Transitional Administration in East Timor" (A/C.5/54/L.34), which had been submitted by the Chairman on the basis of informal consultations.

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5. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.5/54/L.34 without a vote (see para. 6).

III. Recommendation of the Fifth Committee

6. The Fifth Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Financing of the United Nations Transitional Administration in East Timor

The General Assembly,

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General on the financing of the United Nations Transitional Administration in East Timor[1] and the related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,[2]

Bearing in mind Security Council resolution 1272 (1999) of 25 October 1999 regarding the establishment of the United Nations Transitional Administration in East Timor,

Recognizing that the costs of the Transitional Administration are expenses of the Organization to be borne by Member States in accordance with Article 17, paragraph 2, of the Charter of the United Nations,

Recognizing also that, in order to meet the expenditures caused by the Transitional Administration, a different procedure is required from that applied to meet expenditures of the regular budget of the United Nations,

Taking into account the fact that the economically more developed countries are in a position to make relatively larger contributions and that the economically less developed countries have a relatively limited capacity to contribute towards such an operation,

Bearing in mind the special responsibilities of the permanent members of the Security Council, as indicated in General Assembly resolution 1874 (S-IV) of 27 June 1963, in the financing of such operations,

Noting with appreciation that voluntary contributions have been made to the trust fund for the multinational force,

Inviting voluntary contributions to the trust fund for the United Nations Transitional Administration in East Timor,

Mindful of the fact that it is essential to provide the Transitional Administration with the necessary financial resources to enable it to fulfil its responsibilities under the relevant resolutions of the Security Council,

1. *Expresses concern* about the financial situation with regard to peacekeeping activities, in particular as regards the reimbursement of troop contributors, which would bear additional burdens owing to overdue payments by Member States of their assessments;

[1] A/54/236/Add.1.
[2] A/54/653.

2. *Urges* all Member States to make every possible effort to ensure payment of their assessed contributions to the United Nations Transitional Administration in East Timor in full and on time;

3. *Expresses concern* at the delay experienced by the Secretary-General in deploying and providing adequate resources to some recent peacekeeping missions, in particular those in Africa;

4. *Emphasizes* that all future and existing peacekeeping missions shall be given equal and non-discriminatory treatment in respect of financial and administrative arrangements;

5. *Also emphasizes* that all peacekeeping missions shall be provided with adequate resources for the effective and efficient discharge of their respective mandates;

6. *Requests* the Secretary-General to make the fullest possible use of facilities and equipment at the United Nations Logistics Base at Brindisi, Italy, in order to minimize the costs of procurement for the Transitional Administration, and for this purpose requests the Secretary-General to speed up the implementation of the asset management system at all peacekeeping missions in accordance with General Assembly resolution 52/1 of 15 October 1997;

7. *Endorses* the observations and recommendations contained in the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions;[2]

8. *Requests* the Secretary-General to take all necessary action to ensure that the Transitional Administration is administered with a maximum of efficiency and economy;

9. *Also requests* the Secretary-General, in order to reduce the cost of employing General Service staff, to continue efforts to employ locally recruited staff for the Transitional Administration against General Service posts, commensurate with the requirements of the Transitional Administration;

10. *Authorizes* the Secretary-General to enter into commitments in an amount not exceeding 200 million United States dollars, inclusive of the amount of 50 million dollars authorized by the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions, for the United Nations Transitional Administration in East Timor under the terms of section IV of General Assembly resolution 49/233 A of 23 December 1994, and requests the Secretary-General to establish a special account for the Transitional Administration;

11. *Decides*, as an ad hoc arrangement, to apportion the amount of 200 million dollars among Member States in accordance with the composition of groups set out in paragraphs 3 and 4 of General Assembly resolution 43/232 of 1 March 1989, as adjusted by the Assembly in its resolutions 44/192 B of 21 December 1989, 45/269 of 27 August 1991, 46/198 A of 20 December 1991, 47/218 A of 23 December 1992, 49/249 A of 20 July 1995, 49/249 B of 14 September 1995, 50/224 of 11 April 1996, 51/218 A to C of 18 December 1996 and 52/230 of 31 March 1998 and its decisions 48/472 A of 23 December 1993, 50/451 B of 23 December 1995, 54/___, 54/___ and 54/___ of ___ December 1999,* and taking into account the scale of assessments for the years 1999 and 2000, as set out in its resolutions 52/215 A of 22 December 1997 and 54/___ of ___December 1999;**

12. *Emphasizes* that no peacekeeping mission shall be financed by borrowing funds from other active peacekeeping missions;

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* Decisions to be adopted on agenda item 151.

** Resolution to be adopted on agenda item 125.

13. *Encourages* the Secretary-General to continue to take additional measures to ensure the safety and security of all personnel under the auspices of the United Nations participating in the Transitional Administration;

14. *Invites* voluntary contributions to the Transitional Administration in cash and in the form of services and supplies acceptable to the Secretary-General, to be administered, as appropriate, in accordance with the procedures and practices established by the General Assembly;

15. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly, as a matter of priority, a comprehensive report on the financing of the Transitional Administration, including full budget estimates and information on the utilization of resources until the time of the submission of the report, to enable the Assembly to take action on it at the first part of its resumed fifty-fourth session;

16. *Decides* to keep under review during its fifty-fourth session the agenda item entitled "Financing of the United Nations Transitional Administration in East Timor".